



Public Buildings, Institutions, and Campgrounds

Fact Sheet

More could be accomplished to ensure public health, but this program, although mandated by state law (Louisiana Revised Statutes 40:4.A (4) (5) (10) and (11), it is not funded by either self-generated monies nor by state general fund monies. Vigorous enforcement of the Code is required to prevent corner cutting and introduction of unsafe products or practices which could kill or injure people. A strong Sanitary Code is vital to ensuring public safety and quality economic development.

The purpose of public building oversight is to perform an engineering review of lighting, spacing and sanitation, that meet public health needs. Developers and designers want to cut corners, reduce fixtures, and sometimes use new products that are unsafe and can cause injuries and deaths.

Performance Indicators

- # of health incidents in public buildings

Narrative

Since the Parish and municipality code divisions do not review state buildings, engineers issue permits for all public buildings, including campgrounds, schools, clinics, after reviewing plans and specifications for public buildings (especially those with vulnerable populations like schools, hospitals, nursing homes, review and approve/disapprove new or innovative products or practices, advise builders, sanitarians and the Fire Marshall's Office on technical construction and installation issues, and periodically work with shareholders to keep the Sanitary Code up to date. Engineers also review and recommend action to the State Health officer on requests for variances from the Sanitary Code.

The purpose is solely to protect the public from unsafe ventilation, lighting, overcrowding and lack of sanitary fixtures at schools, institutions, prisons or campgrounds where people could be harmed.

Better Health

- To keep people from being harmed by poor designs and bad lighting. The population served is >5.4 Million people/year – including citizens and visitors. There would be little economic development or tourism in Louisiana if people were made ill or died from poor design, or if public buildings did not have adequate lighting or working fixtures. Schools, prisons, clinics and hospitals have especially vulnerable populations and are subject to cost cutting and overcrowding.
- Engineering Services collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders, including: the CDC, the State Plumbing Board, the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council, the State Board for Licensing Engineers, the Louisiana Municipal Association, the Police Jury Association, and the Fire Marshall's office. National collaborations include the American Backflow Prevention Association, the National Sanitation Foundation.
- Engineering Services staff respond to every request for variance from the code, new product and new system approvals, and citizen complaint, and work hands-on with sanitarians, designers, the Code Council, and the Fire Marshall's Office, to ensure that public buildings are constructed safely and in compliance with the regulations.

Vigilance is required to protect the public from poor building designs, poor lighting and lack of plumbing fixtures, and overcrowding, especially with vulnerable populations in public buildings, such as schools, nursing homes, hospitals, day care centers, and prisons. Good engineering decisions are required daily on topics such as green design, water reuse, lighting, triple bunks, fire protection chemicals, solar heating, new and innovative products.

State Authority: L.R.S. 40:4.A (4), (5), (10), (11), State Regulations – Sanitary Code (LAC Title 51), Parts XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI.

Websites:

- Center for Environmental Health : <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=242>, DHH
- OPH Engineering Services: <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=204>,